

Dear Commission,

I address you with some haste and great distress. It seems the 11th hour and I have only just heard of the proceedings to consolidate media ownership. Interesting: The media didn't cover the story...

I (and every person I know) am strongly opposed to further ownership consolidation of the media. I have two bases for opposition, the first is fundamental, the second is experiential.

1. Our democracy's strength is a diversity of viewpoint, and if the media is to serve the public, it is incumbent on the FCC to foster that diversity, not erase it. If the major media-holding corporations become larger, the independent media effectively becomes smaller. Even now, to get ANY diversity in reportage, a person must live in certain cities or own a computer. That does not qualify as media diversity.

2. The recent changes in radio ownership (i.e. Clearchannel) show us a "clear" example of the effect of consolidation on diversity. This is not speculation, it is experience and it is negative: I, for one, have stopped listening to commercial radio.

Further, my experience as a professional musical entertainer with reference to access to local media: Not only is so-called "local" air media inaccessible for airplay of local talent, print media is loath to announce or review local events, claiming lack of space and agenda directives.

If the whole economy is moving towards giant multi-national (read: unaccountable to any nation) corporations, the FCC's mandate should be to protect American media from this trend. It is very simple, really: will you serve the American people? Or will you serve American corporations? Choose wisely.

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